

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

By way of the amendment instructions above, claim 1 has been amended so as to limit the claimed composition to one which comprises components (A) and (B). The optional lubricant component (C) cancelled from claim 1 now appears in new claim 11, while the subject matter of claim 10 now appears in new claim 12.

A minor nomenclature change has occurred in claim 7 so as to properly set forth the intended compound. As such, the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph has been mooted.

Claims 1, 7-9 and 11-12 therefore remain pending in this application for which favorable reconsideration on the merits is requested.

The sole issue remaining to be resolved in this application is the alleged "obviousness" of the herein claimed invention under 35 USC §103(a) based on Okawa et al (USP 6,255,440). While applicants note that the cited Okawa et al reference does not rise to the level of unassailable prior art, the amended version of claim 1 as presented above should, in any event, establish a clear line of patentable demarcation therebetween. Specifically, the amended version of claim 1 now requires the presence of components (A) **and** (B) **or** (C) to be present in the composition. As the Examiner acknowledges in the penultimate paragraph on page 3 of the subject Official Action, such a combination of components is not disclosed or suggested in the applied Okawa et al reference.

Therefore, in view of the amendments and remarks above, applicants suggest that this application is in condition for prompt allowance, and official notice to that effect is solicited.

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An early and favorable reply is therefore awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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